



# Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana

## Recommendation to the Commission

**Party Submitting Recommendation:** Joel Wieneke and Terrie Decker for the Subcommittee on Juvenile Reintegration

**Date of Submission:** 2/16/2022

### Type of Action Requested:

Legislation    Administrative Rule or Policy    Resolution of Support or Endorsement    Professional/skills development

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### Which of the Commission's Strategic Priorities does this Recommendation help advance (check all that apply):

Child Health and Safety    Juvenile Justice and Cross-system Youth  
 Mental Health and Substance Abuse    Educational Outcomes

### Summary of Recommendation:

- Extend the CISC recommendation for county provided/contracted services to support reintegration from DOC to any child who has been removed from the home for a period of x days or more.
- Recommend that counsel appointed for the child remain on the case until the child is completely discharged from juvenile court jurisdiction.
- Recommend the development of probation guidelines for reintegration services designed to prevent unnecessary risk of reoffending/violating of supervision that accompanies those reintegration services.
- Recommend that the community-based grant funding opportunities include reintegration supports include assistance with housing, income acquisition, and necessary skills acquisition (this may require access to social workers/case managers during reintegration).
- Convey the above recommendations to the Juvenile Oversight Body to be created by HB 1359 for consideration in its work on reintegration services.

### Background of Recommendation:

What is the need or problem, and how does it impact disparate populations?

Juvenile justice stakeholders have expressed a low level of confidence in connecting youth re-entering the community to housing and services. This problem is exacerbated in rural communities, wherein justice system stakeholders expressed a significantly lower confidence level in the areas of housing and services for reintegrating youth. This impacts disparate

populations as placement, whether in secure detention, residential facility, or correctional facility, involves a disproportionately high percentage of racial and ethnic minorities.

What data, research or other information did the recommender consult to formulate this proposal?

National best practice guides and literature for youth reintegration, and a survey of Indiana juvenile justice stakeholders that will be presented at the February 23, 2022, CISC meeting.

What disproportionality did the data reveal?

Rural county stakeholders expressed being less able to address housing, and across all areas, availability of services was a concern, with availability and accessibility being exacerbated in rural counties.

What is the current response to the problem by the State of Indiana?

Reintegration from placement for justice involved youth typically comes at the condition of being supervised by juvenile probation, or it does not happen at all. Family first preservation efforts will connect some of these youth who have been placed in Qualified Residential Treatment Programs will have access to six months of “aftercare,” but that is a small subset of the justice involved youth who experience placement. Indiana is in the process of establishing a Juvenile Oversight Body, which will have a role in making recommendations to DOC reintegration, but that is also a subset of the juvenile justice population who are re-entering the community. Reintegration is an issue that all youth coming out of placement experience at some levels, and the approach needs to be system wide.

What solution is the recommender proposing, and how does it affect disparate populations?

It will address all youth reintegrating to family and community from placement. Those youth are disproportionately minority youth, and providing reintegration services to all of those youth, could reduce recidivism for those disproportionately impacted youth.

How does the solution address the disproportionality in the data?

By connecting rural counties with the already identified grant funding opportunities for the purpose of supporting reintegrating youth, the population that is made up from a disproportionately high percentage of minority youth will be better supported. In turn, this should reduce recidivism.

**Implementation:**

Who is responsible for implementing the recommendation?

The Juvenile Justice Oversight Body will have a role in developing standards, but the key implementors will include juvenile courts and probation officers, residential, correctional, and detention facilities, community based mental health

centers, other social work providers, mental health and substance use treatment providers, and mentoring opportunities. The grant funding component will be managed by the counties and the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute, as specified by HB 1359.

Has the recommendation been discussed with the implementer?

Yes       No

What is the recommended timeframe for the Commission to review implementation?

6 months     12 months     18 months     Other\_\_It will depend on the flow of the Juvenile Justice Oversight Body, Indiana Criminal Justice Institute, County Stakeholders work in implementing HB 1359.

**If a legislative request, cite the current relevant code and specify what change is being recommended.**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**If a policy request, cite the current relevant policy and specify what change is being recommended.**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**If the recommendation involves an endorsement or public promotion of a specific initiative or statement, attach the document of which you are seeking the Commission's support/endorsement/promotion.**